Number of Regulatory Authorities

283. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Regulatory Authorities that are working presently, the Department/ subjects they are regulating and expenditure incurred on them during 2005 and 2006;

(b) whether the Planning Commission suggested setting up only three Sector Regulators to prevent their proliferation; and

(c) if so, the number of such sector Regulators that would be appointed to regulate Energy sector, Transport Sector and Communications Sector, and the Departments /subjects each would be covering?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN): (a) In the electricity, fuels and gas sectors, the grants-in-aid by the Government to the Central Electricity Regulatory Authority (CERC) were Rs. 5.84 crore in 2005-06 and Rs. 5.65 crore in 2006-07, while no expenditures were incurred in respect of the Joint Electricity Regulatory Commission for the Union Territories except Delhi (JERC). No expenditures were incurred in 2005-06 and 2006-07 in respect of the Petroleum and natural Gas Regulatory Board (PNGRB) since it was set up in October 2007 to, *inter alia,* protect the interests of consumers as well as entities engaged in activities such as refining, processing storage, distribution and sale of petroleum, petroleum products and natural gas and to promote competitive markets.,

In the transport sectors, the Tariff Authority for Major Ports (TAMP) frames the scale of rates and statement of conditions under which any of the services shall be performed by a Board and the private terminal operating thereon, and the grants-in-aid released by the Government were Rs. 2.56 crore in 2005-06 and Rs. 3.29 crore in 2006-07.

On the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) set up under the TRAI Act, 1997, *inter alia,* to regulate the telecommunication services and to protect the interests of serivce providers and consumers, the Department of Telecommunications incurred an expenditure of Rs. 14.45 crore in 2005-06 and Rs. 15.0 crore in 2006-07

In the financial sectors, to the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority (IRDA), which regulates, promotes and ensures the orderly growth of insurance and re-insurance business, grants-in-aid were not provided in 2005-06 and 2006-07 by the Government. The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) incurred a total expenditure of Rs. 63.4 crore in 2005-06 and Rs. 210.59 crore in 2006-07, which has been met out of the SEBI General Fund and not the Consolidated Fund of India. In respect of the Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA), the expenditure incurred was Rs. 2.0 crore in 2005-06 and Rs. 2.86 crore in 2006-07.

(b) and (c) In the forthcoming Eleventh Plan (2007-08 to 2011-12) document of the Planning Commission it has been observed that the regulatory framework that has emerged in the infrastructure sectors over the last fifteen years is characterized by the establishment of independent regulatory commissions on a sectoral basis, and recommends that consideration should be given to establishing multi-sectoral regualtors for (a) communications, (b) electricity, fuels and gas, and (c) transport. This would eliminate proliferation of regulatory commissions, help build capacity and expertise, promote consistency of approach and save on costs. It recommends that the States should

be ecouraged to consider a single regulatory commission for all infrastructure sectors, an approach which may be more productive and cost-effective as compared to sectoral regulators for each sector.

Development of Adam's Bridge as Tourist Spot

†284. SHRI SHREEGOPAL VYAS:
SHRI BALAVANT *ALIAS* BAL APTE:

Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the number of people going to see Adam's Bridge has suddenly increased;

(b) whether it includes foreign tourists also; and

(c) whether a suggestion has come that it should be developed as a tourist spot so that more benefit can be taken than the savings occurring from the Sethusamudram project?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BALLU): (a) and (b) there is no access to Adam's Bridge by way of land transport or scheduled sea transport and the sea is rough and risky, Hence the question of foreign or Indian tourists visiting Adam's Bridge does not arise

(c) No such suggestion has been received.

Cost overrun in Construction of Delhi-Gurgaon National Highway

†285. DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:
SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:

Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that road construction on National Highway No. 8 between Delhi and Gurgaon has been completed;

(b) if so, whether construction cost of the project has overrun the one originally estimated;

(c) if so, the original construction cost and actual construction cost, respectively; and

(d) the reasons for the cost overrun?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRASNPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIAPPA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) The total project cost was estimated as Rs. 555 crore. The work was awarded on Build, Operate and Transfer (BOT) basis at a negative grant of Rs. 61.06 crore. The entire construction cost of the project has been borne by the Concessionaire. The Change of Scope works amounting to Rs. 155.25 crore (including share of Haryana Government) was approved as per the requirement of Haryana and Delhi Governments and keeping in view requirement of traffic due to rapid development in gurgaon in the last 4 to 5 Years. This was borne by the National Highways authority of India. The total cost of construction is approx. Rs. 710 crore.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.